

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

February 27, 2015

The Connection

Supportive Housing for Families Program

Rosa O.

First, I want to say thank you for all the hard work you do and for this opportunity to share my story.

Hi, my name is Rosa and I started with the Supportive Housing for Families program on April 24, 2012. I'm 27 years old and I have a 7 year old daughter and a 4 year old son.

I lived with my mother and father. It was good at times and they provided us with the things we needed. I witnessed domestic violence between my parents and for that reason I dropped out of high school as I felt the need to protect my mother. I completed my GED in 2007 and was diagnosed with Graves' Disease (thyroid problems).

I got involved with DCF in May of 2011, due to physical and medical neglect towards my son. As a result of the investigation, my children were removed.

When I started working with the Supportive Housing for Families program, I was working with DCF to reunify with my children. I was housed through Supportive Housing for Families program in July 25, 2012. I completed all DCF specific steps to get back my children. My daughter was reunified in August 10, 2012 and my son in September 7, 2012. Both of my children have medical conditions. I am planning to go back to school and I am looking for a job.

I am very grateful to the Supportive Housing for Families program which has given me the opportunity to have my own apartment, have both my children with me, and to help me work towards becoming independent.

In closing, I would ask that if you can see your way towards funding additional RAPs, it's a program that really works. It has helped so many families and I believe it's worth making sure it continues to help other families in need.

Thank you.

